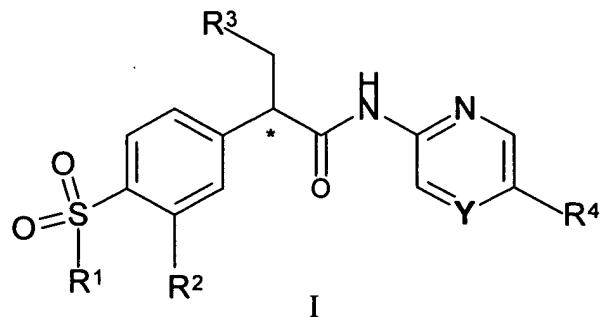


What is claimed is:

1. A compound according to formula I



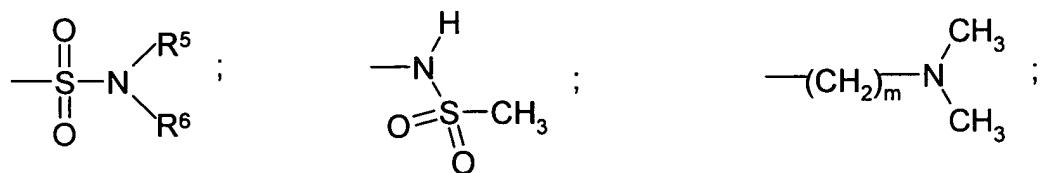
wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms;

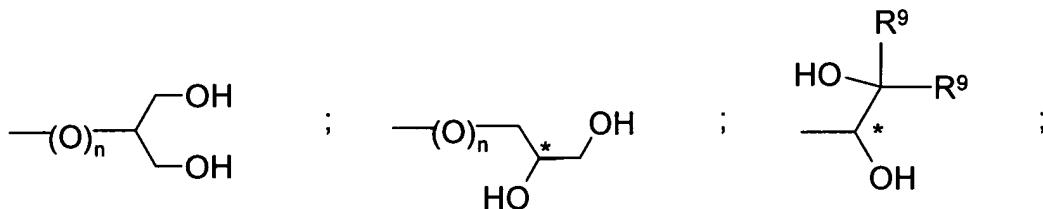
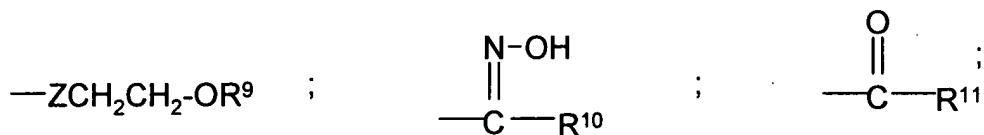
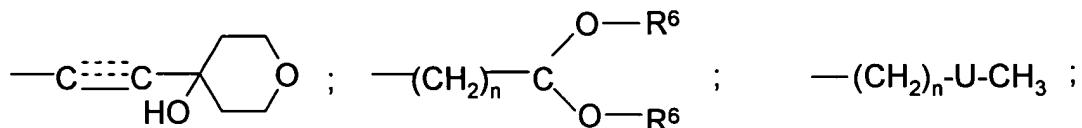
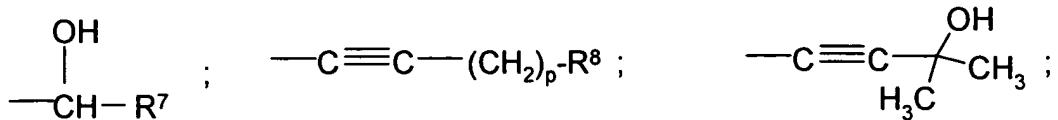
R² is hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, or methoxy;

R³ is cycloalkyl having from 4 to 6 carbons;

Y is independently selected from the group of CH and N to form a pyridine or pyrazine ring, respectively;

R⁴ is a substituent in position 5 of the pyridine or pyrazine ring selected from the group consisting of:





$-(\text{CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{-Q}$, wherein Q is a 5-membered saturated, substituted, heterocyclic ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said heterocyclic ring containing two heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen, and substituted at each of two ring carbons with an oxo group, and optionally substituted at the connecting ring carbon with a substituent which is methyl or amino;

$-(\text{CH}_2\text{)}_n\text{-V}$, wherein V is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring connected by a ring carbon, which said heterocyclic ring containing from one to three hetero atoms selected from sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen; said mono-substituted heterocyclic ring being a heterocyclic ring which is mono-substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of cyano, halo, nitro, amino, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy;

a nine- or ten- membered bicyclic heterocyclic ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said bicyclic heterocyclic ring containing one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur; and

an unsubstituted or mono-substituted six-membered aryl ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said mono-substituted aryl ring being mono-substituted at a position on a ring carbon atom other than the connecting carbon atom with a substituent selected from the group consisting of cyano, halo, nitro, amino, methyl, methoxy, and hydroxy;

R^5 is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

R^6 is lower alkyl;

R^7 is lower alkyl, cyano, or $-C(=O)NH_2$;

R^8 is hydroxy, methoxy, or dimethylamine;

R^9 is hydrogen or methyl;

R^{10} is lower alkyl, cyano, or $-NH_2$;

R^{11} is hydrogen, lower alkyl, or $NHOH$;

m is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 1 or 2;

U is S, SO, or SO_2 ;

Z is O, S, or NH;

----denotes an optional bond;

* denotes an asymmetric carbon atom;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is methyl.

3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is hydrogen or halo.

4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein halo is chlorine.
5. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R³ is cyclopentyl.
6. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is -(CH₂)_n-U-CH₃.
7. The compound according to claim 6, wherein U is S.
8. The compound according to claim 7, which is selected from the group consisting of:
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methylsulfanyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;
3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-(5-methylsulfanyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;
2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methylsulfanylmethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide; and
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methylsulfanylmethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.
9. The compound according to claim 6, wherein U is SO.
10. The compound according to claim 9, which is selected from the group consisting of:
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfinyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide; and
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfinylmethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.
11. The compound according to claim 6, wherein U is SO₂.

12. The compound according to claim 11, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfonylmethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

13. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is -ZCH₂CH₂-OR⁹.

14. The compound according to claim 13, wherein Z is S.

15. The compound according to claim 14, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxyethylsulfonyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

16. The compound according to claim 13, wherein Z is O or NH.

17. The compound according to claim 16, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-5-(2-methoxyethoxy-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-methoxyethylamino)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxyethylamino)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

18. The compound according to claim 17, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

19 The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{CH}_3$.

20. The compound according to claim 19, wherein the compound is selected from 2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfonylamino-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide; and 2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfonylamino-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

21. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$.

22. The compound according to claim 21, wherein m is zero.

23. The compound according to claim 22, which is 2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethylamino-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide.

24. The compound according to claim 22, which is 2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethylamino-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

25. The compound according to claim 21, which is selected from the group consisting of: 2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and 2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethylaminomethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

26. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}^{11}$.

27. The compound according to claim 26, which is
2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-formyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

28. The compound according to claim 26, which is selected from the group consisting of:
N-(5-Acetyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide; and
N-(5-Acetyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

29. The compound according to claim 26, which is selected from the group consisting of:
2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-isobutyryl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide; and
5-[2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-pyrazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide.

30. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is
-(CH₂)_n-C(OR⁶)OR⁶ and R⁶ is methyl or ethyl.

31. The compound according to claim 30, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethoxymethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

32. The compound according to claim 30, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2,2-dimethoxyethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

33. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is $-C(OH)R^7$.

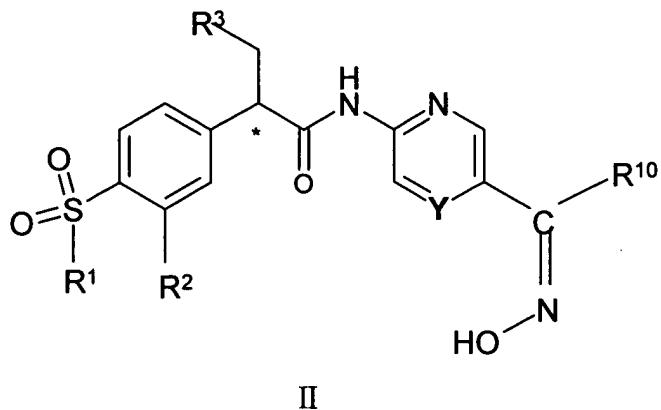
34. The compound according to claim 33, which is selected from
2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1-hydroxy-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;
2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1-hydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-[5-(cyano-hydroxy-methyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide; and
N-[5-(Carbamoyl-hydroxy-methyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

35. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{O} \\ \parallel \\ \text{S} - \text{N} \begin{array}{l} \text{R}^5 \\ \diagup \\ \diagdown \\ \text{R}^6 \end{array} \end{array}$$

36. The compound according to claim 35, which is selected from the group consisting of:
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methylsulfamoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide; and
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethylsulfamoyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide.

37. The compound of claim 1 according to formula II,



38. The compound according to claim 31, wherein R¹⁰ is -NH₂, cyano, or lower alkyl which is methyl or ethyl.

39. The compound according to claim 38, which is

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

40. The compound according to claim 38, which is

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyridin-2-yl]-propionamide.

41. The compound according to claim 38, which is

3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

42. The compound according to claim 38, which is

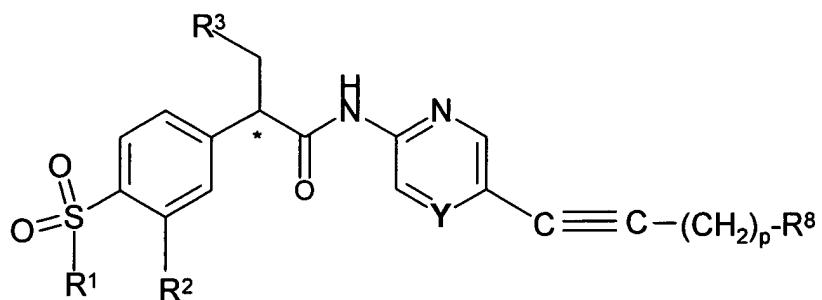
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1-(Z)-hydroxyimino-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

43. The compound according to claim 38, which is selected from the group consisting of :

3-Cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(1-hydroxyimino-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide; and

2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-*N*-[5-(cyano-hydroxyimino-methyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

44. The compound of claim 1, according to formula III,



III

45. The compound according to claim 44, wherein p is 1.

46. The compound according to claim 44, wherein R⁸ is hydroxy or dimethylamine.

47. The compound according to claim 44, which is

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(3-hydroxy-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

48. The compound according to claim 44, which is

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(3-dimethylamino-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

49. The compound according to claim 44, which is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-methoxy-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-[5-(3-methoxyprop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

50. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of:

$-(CH_2)_n-Q$, wherein Q is a 5-membered saturated, substituted, heterocyclic ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said heterocyclic ring containing two heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen, and substituted at each of two ring carbons with an oxo group, and optionally substituted at the connecting ring carbon with a substituent which is methyl or amino;

$-(CH_2)_n-V$, wherein V is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted five- or six-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring connected by a ring carbon, which said heterocyclic ring containing from one to three hetero atoms selected from sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen; said mono-substituted heterocyclic ring being a heterocyclic ring which is mono-substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of cyano, halo, nitro, amino, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy;

a nine- or ten- membered bicyclic heterocyclic ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said bicyclic heterocyclic ring containing one hetero atom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur; and

an unsubstituted or mono-substituted six-membered aryl ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said mono-substituted aryl ring being mono-substituted at a position on a ring

carbon atom other than the connecting carbon atom with a substituent selected from the group consisting of cyano, halo, nitro, amino, methyl, methoxy, and hydroxy;

51. The compound according to claim 50, wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_n-V$; and

an unsubstituted or mono-substituted 6-membered aryl ring connected by a ring carbon atom, said mono-substituted aryl ring being mono-substituted at a position on a ring carbon atom other than the connecting carbon atom with a substituent selected from the group consisting of chloro, bromo, nitro, amino, methyl, methoxy and hydroxy.

52. The compound according to claim 51, wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of $-(CH_2)_n-V$, wherein n is zero and V is an unsubstituted five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom, with said five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one heteroatom selected from sulfur, oxygen or nitrogen.

53. The compound according to claim 51, wherein R^4 is an unsubstituted or mono-substituted 6-membered aryl ring selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted aryl, aryl substituted with methoxy and aryl substituted with hydroxy.

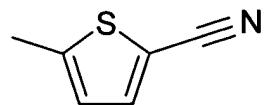
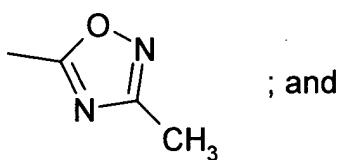
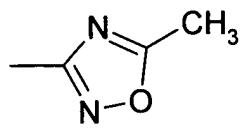
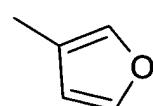
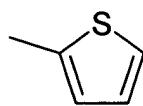
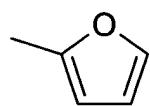
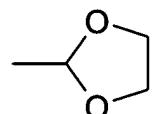
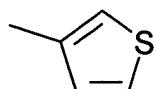
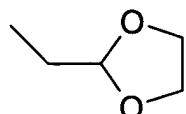
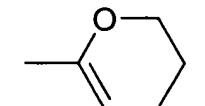
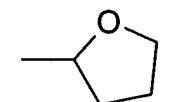
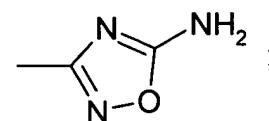
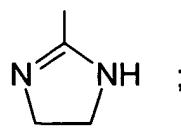
54. The compound according to claim 53, which is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-methoxyphenyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

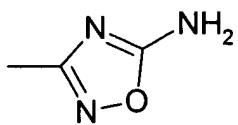
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxyphenyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

2(R)-(3-Chloro-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

55. The compound according to claim 51, wherein R⁴ is -(CH₂)_n-V which is selected from the group consisting of:



56. The compound according to claim 55, wherein R⁴ is



57. The compound according to claim 56, which is

N-[5-(5-Amino-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide.

58. The compound according to claim 51, wherein R^4 is $-(CH_2)_n-V$ which is selected from the group consisting of:

2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(5-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(3-methyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-5-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(5-[1,3]dioxolan-2-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(5-[1,3]dioxolan-2-ylmethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(tetrahydro-furan-2-yl)-pyridin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(5-furan-2-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-[5-(5,6-dihydro-4H-pyran-2-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(5-thiophen-2-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(5-thiophen-3-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

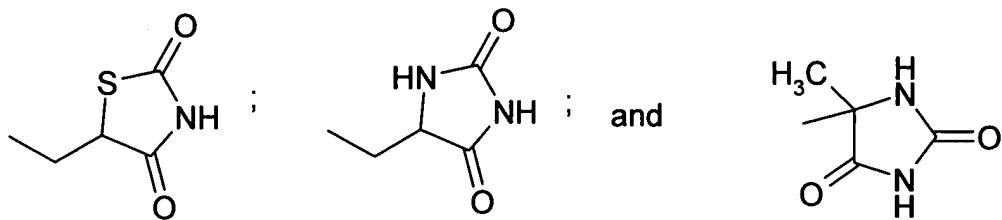
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-(5-furan-3-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-*N*-[5-(5-cyano-thiophen-2-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide; and

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-*N*-{5-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl}-propionamide trifluoro-acetic acid salt.

59. The compound according to claim 50, wherein R^4 is $-(CH_2)_n-Q$.

60. The compound according to claim 59, wherein R^4 is $-(CH_2)_n-Q$ which is selected from the group consisting of:



61. The compound according to claim 60, which is

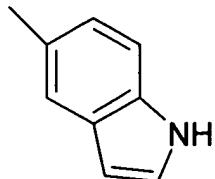
2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

62. The compound according to claim 60, which is selected from the group consisting of:

2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2,5-dioxo-imidazolidin-4-ylmethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

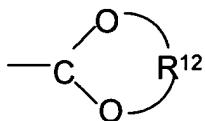
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-methyl-2,5-dioxo-imidazolidin-4-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

63. The compound according to claim 50, wherein R^4 is a bicyclic heteroaromatic ring which is



64. The compound according to claim 63, which is
2(R)-(3-Chloro-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1H-indol-5-yl)-
pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

65. The compound according to claim 54, wherein R⁴ is -(CH₂)_n-V, and V is



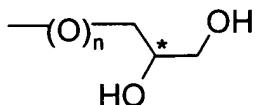
wherein R¹² is an unbranched alkyl chain of 2 or 3 carbon atoms wherein the chain, in combination with the oxygen atoms to which it is bonded, forms a five- or six membered-ring.

66. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁶ is methyl or ethyl.

67. The compound according to claim 1, which is a racemic mixture at the chiral carbon upon which -CH₂R³ is a substituent.

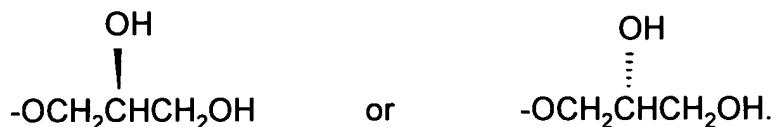
68. The compound according to claim 1, which is in the R configuration at the chiral carbon upon which -CH₂R³ is a substituent.

69. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is



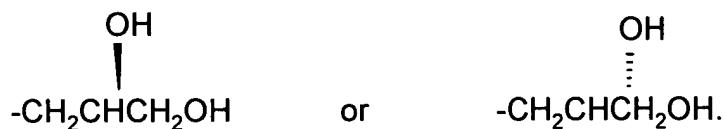
70. The compound according to claim 69, wherein the compound is a racemic mixture at the chiral carbon of R⁴.

71. The compound according to claim 69, wherein when n is 1, the configuration is



72. The compound according to claim 71, wherein R⁴ is in the R configuration.

73. The compound according to claim 69, wherein when n is zero, the configuration is



74. The compound according to claim 73, wherein R⁴ is in the R configuration.

75. The compound according to claim 69, which is selected from the group consisting of:

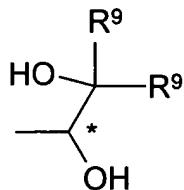
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2(R),3-dihydroxy-propoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2(S),3-dihydroxy-propoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2(S),3-dihydroxy-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

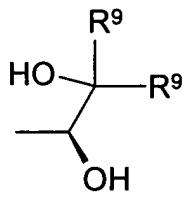
2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2(R),3-dihydroxy-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

76. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is

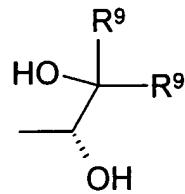


77. The compound according to claim 76, wherein the compound is a racemic mixture at the chiral carbon of R⁴.

78. The compound according to claim 76, wherein the configuration is



or



79. The compound according to claim 78, wherein R⁴ is in the S configuration.

80. The compound according to claim 76, which is

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(S),2-dihydroxy-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

81. The compound according to claim 76, which is

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(S),2-dihydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

82. The compound according to claim 76, which is selected from the group consisting of :

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-1(R),2-dihydroxy-ethyl]-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

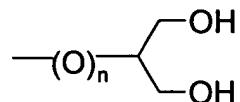
3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-1(S),2-dihydroxy-ethyl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl)-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-1(R),2-dihydroxy-ethyl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1,2-dihydroxy-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(R),2-dihydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

83. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is

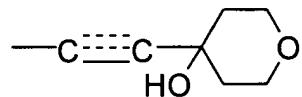


84. The compound according to claim 83, which is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxy-1-hydroxymethyl-ethoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

85. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is



86. The compound according to claim 85, which is selected from the group consisting of:

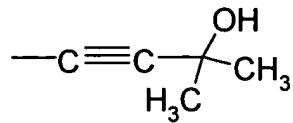
3-Cyclopentyl-N-5-[(4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran-4-yl-ethynyl)pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran-4-yl-ethynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran-4-yl-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylethynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl-phenyl)-propionamide.

87. The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is



88. The compound according to claim 87, which is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl-phenyl)-propionamide; and

3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide.

89. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

90. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 89, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methylsulfanyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxyethylsulfanyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfinyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-dimethylamino-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfonylamino-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethylamino-pyridin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethylamino-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-dimethylamino-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

N-[5-(5-Amino-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide;

2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-formyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-dimethoxymethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

N-(5-Acetyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-2-(3-chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-[5-(cyano-hydroxy-methyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1-(Z)-hydroxyimino-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

91. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 90, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-N-[5-(N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1-(Z)-hydroxyimino-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

92. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 89, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

5-[2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-propionylamino]-pyrazine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxyamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-methanesulfonylmethyl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1-hydroxyimino-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-[1,3]dioxolan-2-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-5-(2-methoxyethoxy-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-2(R),3-dihydroxy-propoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-5-[(4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran-4-yl-ethynyl)pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-methoxy-prop-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2(S),3-dihydroxy-propoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran-4-yl-ethynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-tetrahydropyran-4-yl-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(S),2-dihydroxy-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-1(R),2-dihydroxy-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-1(S),2-dihydroxy-ethyl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl)-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-N-[5-(4-hydroxy-tetrahydro-pyran-4-ylethynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-3-methyl-phenyl)-propionamide;

3-Cyclopentyl-2(R)-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-N-[5-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-but-1-ynyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(S),2-dihydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(tetrahydro-furan-2-yl)-pyridin-2-yl]-propionamide;

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-furan-2-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(2-hydroxy-ethylamino)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(5,6-dihydro-4H-pyran-2-yl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-thiophen-2-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-(5-furan-3-yl-pyrazin-2-yl)-propionamide; and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

93. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 92, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(S),2-dihydroxy-ethyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide;
2(R)-(3-Chloro-4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-3-cyclopentyl-N-[5-(1(S),2-dihydroxy-2-methyl-propyl)-pyrazin-2-yl]-propionamide; and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

94. A method for the treatment of type II diabetes in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, in an amount of from about 100 mg to about 1,000 mg per day.